

Living in the Intent of God's All

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. (2 Peter 1:3-12 ESV)

The intent of God's all is for the believer to live a godly witness before all humanity whether or not they are a part of the Body of Christ. Ultimately, God is interested in believer's relationships, whether they be divine or human.

As a result, Peter informs the believers the ability to live in the all of God's intent begins by getting to know Jesus in all his identities and roles as revealed in Scripture.

The first of these is the revelation of Jesus as the Word of God. God used words to create all that exist. Over and over in Genesis 1 we read, "and God said... and it was."

John writes in both his Gospel and his epistles about Jesus being the incarnation of the Word of God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14 ESV)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim

also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

(1 John 1:1-4 ESV)

So to truly get a full picture of Jesus believers must study the Word because He is the incarnation of every word that ever has or ever will proceed out of the mouth of the Lord our God.

What are some of the qualities of the word of the Lord?

1. It has existed throughout eternity.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1, 2 ESV)

2. It is a creative force that maintains the balance of existence.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (Hebrews 1:3, 4 ESV)

3. It never fails.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10, 11 ESV)

4. It is identified with the personage of Jesus Himself.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 ESV)

5. It is a preventative against the power of sin.

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalms 119:11 ESV)

6. It is the source of God's blessings.

Bless the Lord , O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord , O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalms 103:1-5 ESV)

7. Holy Spirit reveals the Word to be used in the face of persecution.

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luke 12:11, 12 ESV)

Second, Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of man. Both these titles denote lineage of divine and human origins. It has already been demonstrated Jesus, as the Word, has existed throughout eternity which denotes His oneness with God and His eternal existence.

Look what the angel told Mary when she asked how the birth of the Savior would come to pass.

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy— the Son of God. (Luke 1:35 ESV)

The Holy Spirit would come upon her and the Most High would overshadow her, meaning to engulf her with His presence throughout her entire being! Every cell, every molecule, every atom was impregnated with the fullness of God! In this way the Son of God would be born through the flesh of woman which would also make Him the Son of Man.

As the Son of God/Son of Man Jesus knew the the physical limitations of humanity associated with time and space. However, because He understood the truth of God's Word as revealed in what we refer to as the Old Testament, how to lay hold of the promises, and how to activate His faith He was able to circumvent these physical limitations by His power of faith.

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, "Go," and he goes, and to another, "Come," and he comes, and to my servant, "Do this," and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment. (Matthew 8:5-13 ESV)

In this passage Jesus found a so called unbeliever, a Roman centurion, who asked Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus responded by saying he would accompany the centurion to his home and heal the servant.

The centurion said, "Lord, I recognize your authority over time, space and disease. You don't need to come to my home. Just speak the word and he will be healed!" That was what Jesus did! "And the servant was healed at that very moment."

The faith of Jesus circumvented the physical laws of time and space to bring health and healing to the servant. Believers today, by having the faith of the centurion, can send forth the Word coupled with the faith of Jesus being manifested through their lives can move beyond any physical dimensions!

Third, He knew how to deal with spiritual warfare and temptation. It is here Jesus exerts His Lordship over the enemies of God and His Kingdom.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (Matthew 4:1-11 ESV)

This is the first Scripture to reference being led by the Spirit. In it the Spirit leads Jesus to 1) a place of solitude, 2) a place of submission, 3) a place of assurance, and 4) a place of victory over temptation.

The devil came to Jesus only after He was at His weakest physically. For 40 days Jesus had gone without a morsel of food. He was HUNGRY! It is at this point where Jesus would be hungering for food Satan chose to attack.

In this first attack Satan attacked Jesus as both the Son of God and the Son of Man. Actually he attempted to take the humanness of Jesus to make Him doubt His divinity. This attack was focused on 1) His spiritual identity 2) His immediate physical need and 3) His submission to God. Satan continues to use this same method of attack against believers today.

As believers we have been made children of God.

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:11-13 ESV)

If Satan can create doubt as to the spiritual identity of believers he can stop them from manifesting the faith of Jesus through their lives in order to continue the works and mission of Jesus.

Satan desires to either have believers deny, dilute or refuse to accept what is their birthright. Look at the Talmudic definition of inheritance:

The right of a relative to inherit the property of his deceased kin. The basic laws of inheritance are stated in the Torah (Numbers 27:8-11). The main points are as follows: a father's property is inherited by his sons, with the firstborn receiving a double share. If the deceased had no sons, or the sons have died and left no heirs the daughters receive the inheritance. If he has no offspring at all, the inheritance passes to his father, and then to his father's heirs. The process continues generation to generation, moving back through the paternal family. In this matter the Sages laid down the general principle that, in matters of inheritance a father takes precedence over all his offspring. With regard to inheritance, there is no difference between a legitimate child and a mamzer or a child born out of a forbidden marriage or out of wedlock, if he can prove the father's paternity. Exceptions to this are children born to non-Jewish women or to non-Jewish maidservants. Such children are not considered related to the father. The right to inherit is immediate and not dependent on a will, and in most cases the heirs may not forgo their share before receiving it.

From The Talmud

The Steinsaltz Edition A Reference Guide page 201

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The

Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:15-17 ESV)

While the Jewish tradition of inheritance was very structured the Romans treated all heirs as equals, therefore they were joint or fellow heirs. Paul was very aware of these differences when he wrote the verses above because he was a citizen Rome and a Jew. As a result we see Paul combine both teachings regarding inheritance. According to the Jews all inheritance goes through the father, which for the believer is God the Father. Jesus as the Son of God is the firstborn heir of God. Each and every believer is a joint heir with Christ meaning they have the same access to the power and provision of God as Jesus had during His ministry on earth!

But to have access to that power and provision believers must realize there is a cost and that cost are the testings, trials, doubts and persecutions that will challenge their spiritual identity, change their focus from faith to lack or attack their faithfulness and dedication to the call and mission of God.

As we move forward and understand the fullness of Jesus believers will grasp the promises of Jesus and make them a reality in their lives. Peter says here the great promises of Jesus have ALREADY been granted so that believers can partake of the nature of God!

When believers partake of the nature of God they put their lives so much into the care of God the desires of the flesh and the world lose their intensity of influence.

The next few verses of this passage defines the qualities of God's nature and demonstrates how each quality builds on the previous quality of divinity.

Faith - is accepting the unseen, unobservable, as a reality because God promised to perform His Word. Faith never doubts God is faithful.

True faith is taking one's belief and questions and combining them with the faith of Jesus to change circumstances based on the Word of God, His promises, His provision, and His power.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 KJV)

The life which I now live in the flesh I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD!

Believers have the ability to tap into the faith of Jesus Himself!

Virtue - the power of God manifested to bring forth the blessings of God which when combined with faith performs miracles.

And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that VIRTUE had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? (Mark 5:29, 30 KJV)

Just as germs and some bacteria are carriers of disease so too is the virtue of God the carrier of all His blessings! Receiving the blessings of God comes when one, like the woman with the issue of blood, has reached out with unwavering conviction and faith to receive that which God has waiting.

This woman evidently was a woman of means and prosperity. The Bible informs us she had spent all her money over the 12 years she had this affliction. She had already discovered money was insufficient to meet her need.

She had turned to the most educated in society, the doctors who had taken all her money, and left them every time without an answer.

But then she had heard of this Jesus of Nazareth, a man, who unlike the doctors had been able to heal others who had been untreatable by medical science. This man, Jesus of Nazareth had healed others so she would go out, find Him and be healed!

By this time though, others had similar thoughts because Jesus had become a celebrity. Many came to see Him perform a miracle, as if He were an entertaining magician, others came with hope, but this woman came forth with hope, courage, determination and unwavering faith.

She had hope because she had heard the message of healing, health and deliverance promised by Jesus. She may have even known some of those who had been healed and delivered by His power and authority.

What was the message of hope she heard?

It was the message Jesus gave to the disciples of John the Baptist when he was imprisoned and questioning if Jesus was the promised Messiah.

And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." (Matthew 11:4-6 ESV)

She had courage because as a woman with an issue of blood she was considered to be unclean and could be punished under the law for going into town in her condition.

She came with determination because even though there were throngs of people crowding around Jesus she went through them to reach the Healer and Deliverer she sought for her affliction.

She came with expectant, unwavering faith because she said, "if I can only touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed." She had no doubt, she was unstoppable, she didn't care what others thought about her and she did not care about the consequences she may have to pay under the law! She reached out, touched Him and she felt in her body she had been healed of her plague!

It was the virtue which was able to transform her circumstances and her conditions but ONLY once she went forth with the TOTAL ABSENCE OF DOUBT!

Knowledge - True knowledge begins and ends in the revelation of God becoming a part of the believer's spiritual essence. When one receives knowledge from God that knowledge is not just spiritual.

The book of Daniel informs believers Daniel and the Hebrew children were TEN TIMES more knowledgeable than their peers who served the king!

And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. (Daniel 1:20 ESV)

Even David, when writing the Psalm about the word and its influence, said the Word of God provided superior knowledge over that given by human teachers.

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. (Psalms 119:97-100 ESV)

No matter the cunning techniques or wisdom of the believer's enemies God's Word provides more. No matter how intelligent are the believer's teachers, God's Word provides more knowledge, wisdom and intelligence. No matter the wisdom gained from life experiences of those believers may turn to as advisors, God's knowledge and wisdom is greater.

The knowledge of man is finite, limited and often proven over time to be wrong. But the knowledge of God is infinite, unlimited and never wrong.

But, beyond the expansion of human wisdom and understanding, God desire believers to be filled with the knowledge of His will!

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:9, 10 ESV)

Being filled with the knowledge of God provides intimacy not to be found anywhere else! The sole purpose of being filled with the knowledge of God is to serve God by serving others and to become more like Jesus.

Self-control - The best indicator one has of self control is their mouth and their tongue!

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. (James 3:5-12 ESV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. (Proverbs 18:21 ESV)

Words carry meaning and influence! Words can dictate responses or affect destinies. The words spoken to one another are to be words that build and edify instead of destroy and diminish others.

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:33-37 ESV)

Every careless word, which can be defined as words that do not promote or carry the character of Christ, will receive judgment. The choices one makes regarding their words and responses to others will have an eternal consequence, either for justification or condemnation.

Steadfastness - Steadfastness is to be grounded, secure and unchanging. Security can only be found in God and His Word.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Psalms 1:1-3 ESV)

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

(Jeremiah 17:7, 8 ESV)

Steadfastness comes out of 1) cultivation and 2) assurance.

In both these passages cultivation is about relationships either with God or with those within a person's spheres of influence.

A tree must rely on others to assist in its development. This reliance is a relationship built on trust. It is especially interesting to see how Jeremiah differentiates between putting trust in God versus God being one's trust. Placing one's trust in God is a relationship; God being one's trust is God as a resource and a refuge.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation." (Psalms 91:1-16 ESV)

The tree is planted by a constant provision of sustenance, which also provides protection from outward attack, alleviates anxiety and is constantly prospering regardless of conditions. Notice what Jeremiah says, it "... does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

When one realizes God is the Source of all provision steadfastness becomes a reality in the lives of believers.

Godliness - living according to the life force of God. This is a state of existence not just a quality of personality or character. GOD IS COMPOSED OF GODLINESS! It is this state of existence that separates Him from all other deities. Other gods were known by their function or characteristics. Often their actions resembled those of the humans who worshipped them. Jealousy, anger, sensuality, pettiness, squabbling among other gods, etc. These were actions which were anything but godly.

Some will say the God of the Bible also exhibited some of these emotions. Yes, the Bible does speak of God's wrath and God's jealousy. However, these characteristics were due to humanity's unrepentant sin and the demands of justice according to divine law. They were extensions of the godliness of God being applied so justice could be realized.

God revealed this aspect of His existence to Moses in the desert.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. (Exodus 3:13-15 KJV)

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.'"

This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (Exodus 3:13-15 ESV)

The revelation of God as "I AM" speaks to His essence and His duration throughout eternity as well as His covenant with Israel throughout time.

Brotherly affection - The familial presence of those who have been adopted into the family of God.

Brotherly love or affection is based on submission and service to those in the Body of Christ.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10 ESV)

Brotherly love esteems others needs above the needs of self. Paul seems to encourage believers to actually get competitive with one another to see who can provide more service! Notice the word 'outdo' in this passage.

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. (Hebrews 13:1-3 ESV)

Brotherly love is an ongoing response to those who are in need throughout society. The author of Hebrews puts this service in perspective when he writes, "remember those who are in prison, as though in prison WITH THEM and those who are mistreated, since you ALSO are in the body."

Whatever condition you observe in another could be your condition so serve one another.

Love - The love of God that sends, that serves, that sacrifices for another with no expectation of reciprocity. It is a love that is totally focused on the needs of another.

Love is the defining characteristic of God and as such is the defining characteristic of believers.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:7-10 ESV)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1 John 4:18-21 ESV)

Worry, doubt, skepticism, are all products of fear. Phobias of every sort are products of fear. Compulsive behaviors are products of fear. While limited relief can be achieved with counseling and medications the only true deliverance that can redeem these fears is an experience with the outpouring of the love of God!

The power of God when combined with the love of God provides deliverance from all aspects and influences of fear.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV)

Love always requires service and often requires sacrifice.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:10-13 KJV)

Peter goes on to say that if a believer does not continually develop these qualities of God and Christ in their life then they have neglected to recall the work Jesus did in cleansing them from their sin! Without these qualities believers are unfruitful and ineffective because they lack a full understanding of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished.

Jesus, help us to become more like You and develop these qualities so others can more readily see the life of Jesus being lived through us! Help us discover who Jesus is, what He has done and who we truly are in Him. Help us to claim our birthright as heirs and joint heirs of Jesus!